

AN ANARCHIST PERIODICAL FROM THE OCCUPIED LENAPE TERRITORY KNOWN AS PHILADELPHIA

ANATHEMA



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WHAT WENT DOWN

February: The Gold Standard cafe has concrete thrown through its window.

Late February: New cafe under construction on Baltimore Ave has its windows smashed out on two occasions.

February/March: Freight train traffic disrupted three times in solidarity with anarchists in Russia and Hamilton, J20 defendants, and West Philly cafe window smashers. "This action is also meant to be an attack on the social peace. Hierarchy and domination are a problem, and we want to attack all its forms, but submission, apathy, conformity, resignation, and stagnation also prevent us from being free."

March 2: Winter storm completely collapses construction site in gentrifying Kensington.

March 5: Philly IWW organize a food drive and take a solidarity photo to support teachers' strike in West Virginia.

March 10: Anti-pipeline protesters leave a section of pipeline in a Williams office then stop work at a Williams pipeline worksite by locking themselves to a drill rig in Lancaster County.

Mid-March: Graffiti writers SPD and REAVE tag H&M in Center City in response to commodification of graffiti culture. ★



ARTS & CULTURE: EYESORES AND HATE

The notorious "Tribute to Frank Rizzo" mural in the 9th Street Market is undergoing debate yet again, and this time Mural Arts is looking for feedback about it on their website until March 28th. This follows a demonstration outside their offices and a call-in day that both opposed the mural and recommended it be taken down. The mural is by far the most vandalized in the city, and for good reason – Rizzo, both as police commissioner and mayor of the city, was a known racist, homophobic, enactor of violence overseeing a brutal Philadelphia police force – with allegations of assault, comparisons to the gestapo, and the bombing of the MOVE house in 1985 all a part of popular memory. So who would paint a mural dedicated to this asshole?

The mural was completed in 1995 by Diane Keller with the sponsorship of the Anti-Graffiti Network (of which Mural Arts was a division, when it began), who was assisted by Joe DiBella. In June 2010, the mural was formally restored, with both Kim Alsbrooks and Lucia Michel assisting in the process. On the mural itself, a "special thanks" is offered to Councilman Frank Rizzo and Agnes Viso – presumably "Franny Jr," the late Rizzo's son who served on city council from 1996-2012, with Viso being the former owner of the building. The building is now owned by David Neukirch, who ironically has the most say and least desire to take a position on the mural and drives a Bentley parked out back. Artist and Mural Arts director, Jane Golden, is said to have also contributed to the original painting in 1995.

Diane Keller, according to her website, "has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, at Moore College of Art & Design, and currently teaches at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Her work is in many corporate and private collections nationally, and her numerous public murals in Philadelphia are highly acclaimed. Recent clients include the Byerschool Foundation and Technitrol, Inc."

Kim Alsbrooks – who assisted the restoration of the Rizzo mural in June 2010, along with Lucia Michel – is part of a found-object art collective known as Dumpster Divers Philadelphia. The original painter of the mural, Diane Keller, is also part of the collective that has had annual group shows called "Dumpster Diversions," but has yet to announce one this year. Lucia Michel is listed as an "artist/tradesman at City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program."

Alsbrooks has garnered acclaim for her previous work, including a Vimeo staff pick documenting her miniature portrait paintings on found materials (like beer cans) called, "My White Trash Family." The video attests to her finding fault in "social hierarchies" while she lived in the South, leading to the depiction of 17th and 18th century Americans on trash, and she also criticizes other artists who "over-verbalize" by trying to say too much with or about their work.

She was the owner of Luxe Painting & Historic Restoration in Philadelphia, previously located at 1630 South Beulah Street, but the website domain has since expired.

Artist and assistant mural painter Joe DiBella said in an interview last year, "It's terrifying. It's not once. It's 5 times, 10 times, it happens too often." This is, of course, not a reaction to unbridled state and police violence inflicted on the populace, but tears over some spilled paint. Similarly, during the demonstration outside their office, Mural Arts Chief Financial Officer Joan Reilly referred to the frequent vandalisms as "violent protest," to which a member of the crowd retorted, "if paint on a wall is violence, than the mural is violent."

The Rizzo mural has come under much surveillance after the last few vandalisms, with new cameras on 9th Street and previous reports of undercover cops waiting in the area for potential vandals. The last documented vandalism occurred in August, when one person under suspicion was arrested and is now facing felony charges after Mural Arts director Jane Golden testified fixing the painting cost more than nine thousand dollars. ★

WATCHING THE POLICE

Despite the occasional appearance of reform, the police's institutional resources, responsibilities and overall unchecked control over civilians' lives will likely only increase in coming years. As additional austerity measures, which reduce basic services and welfare for already immiserated people, continue to be one of the only options for the state to be able to manage the economy's ongoing long downturn, basic services are being generally replaced by the police (for example, in the case of police responding to mental health crises). The state and capital will also increasingly rely on the police and expand their reach in order to quell potential unrest, as the rampant inequality and misery of American society gets more intolerable for more people.

In recent local police news, three Camden, NJ cops were caught on camera in late February assaulting a random civilian. The cops approached Edward Minguela, who had his hands up, with their guns drawn; one officer threw him to the ground and punched him while the other two held



him down. Minguela was charged with resisting arrest and obstruction; the three officers have been taken off street duty for now.

Earlier this month, the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, led by Larry Krasner, released to the public defenders office a list of 29 current and former cops whom prosecutors do not call to the stand due to significant histories of lying, racial bias or brutality. Under the Supreme Court case *Brady vs. Maryland*, prosecutors are required to share evidence favorable to defendants with their defense lawyers. By not releasing information about these officers previously, the DA's office had been violating *Brady* for years, as the list has never actually been used to bar an officer's testimony, only informally to dismiss cases involving problem officers. Offenses included an impressive number of cases of lying to investigators, filing false police reports, use of excessive force, and burglary. These 29 officers had made more than 800 arrests in the last five years, and around half of them remain on the force.

It's pretty obvious that the Philadelphia Police, along with every other police department in the world, has no real interest in disciplining itself. That would only discourage police from engaging in routine terroristic behavior, which would seriously compromise their whole reason for existing. But recent media reports have released some new information that indicates exactly how much of a joke the PPD's commitment to policing itself really is.

The department's Internal Affairs division rejects nearly 98% of physical abuse complaints, for unknown reasons. Newly released civilian complaint records (8,555 dating from 2013 to today) show that of the small percentage that are ruled credible by Internal Affairs, hundreds go ignored, often for years. It's rare that evidence is collected or witnesses interviewed. In the even fewer cases that somehow do make it before the Police Board of Inquiry, records show that most officers still walk away with no more than a recommendation for an unspecified "training/counseling". In the past 5 years, out of 1,222 complaints that were sustained by Internal Affairs, only 160 cases yielded a guilty verdict. Those officers that do face the threat of discipline retain counsel from their union, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5, which, under its contract with the city, is easily able to reinstate police officers who have been fired.

The PPD's totally unchecked abuse has occasionally produced public scandals over the past few decades, resulting in various officials pledging to reform the Internal Affairs division, and the division then invariably returning to previous states of "negligence," i.e. uncompromised pursuit of the police's mission to enforce the social "peace" through often random acts of violence. Most recently, Mayor Kenney attempted to "increase transparency" by releasing thousands of complaint records filed against cops, none of which disclose the identities of any of the officers in question. The Kenney administration has not revealed its rationale for this decision. ★

COPS: THE WORST KIND OF CRIMINALS

Police in the city of Philadelphia have a defacto license to commit crimes, while the rest of us need to take all the precautions necessary for a true life of crime. Police in general rely on their privileged status as cops rather than their skill, talent, or friendships to achieve their criminal exploits (almost all of which are oppressive). I'm not saying that all non-police crime is good, but rather that all the sharpness and wisdom one could gain from a life of crime is lost on cops. All the better; we prefer our cops dull and foolish.

The sections of city government responsible for dealings with crime and police are exceptionally lenient and negligent when it comes to cops facing any sort of consequence for doing anything that is illegal for other people to do. A recent article from Philadelphia Weekly explains in detail the complete failures of the justice system to address, let alone pursue and convict, almost all criminal complaints against cops. Those that do end up in any sort of legal proceeding are dealt with by sympathetic cops and judges wearing the world's softest kid gloves.

The lack of consequences lets police move through the world knowing the system is stacked in their favor, and they can act with political impunity. Even video of cops literally threatening to kill someone and then doing it is not enough to lead to anything beyond some bureaucracy, or at worst the loss of their job in that department (another police department is sure to hire them soon, don't worry).

This soft cuddly approach makes police into the worse kind of criminals: cowards. The lack of caution, oversight, or any sort of backlash creates criminals that are spoiled and entitled, the brats of the illegal world. It's no wonder then that as soon as a situation involves even a tiny bit of uncertainty, cops will call in all their buddies so they don't have to deal with anything alone. It's no wonder that cops are so quick to shoot a stranger in the back. It's no wonder cops so often choose brutality and aggression as a first response to "uncooperative" behavior. Like all authoritarians, they are deeply fearful and insecure, they understand their unfair advantage over the people they police, and that they cannot sustain their degenerate lifestyles with the privileges afforded to them.

The rest of us criminals understand that when we break the law we need to take precautions, avoid sloppiness, and take responsibility for ourselves and each other. Whether we're hiding our identities, covering our tracks, or establishing networks of friendship to support one another, crime is an opportunity to grown, learn, and develop a direct relationship with the world around us. The crimes of the police on the other hand are simply an outgrowth of their laziness, their entitlement, and their removal from any sense



International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason
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of consequence in the real world.

All this is inherent to the police system. The police NEED to be able to act with impunity to do their jobs. The cowardly attitude, the bias in persecution of cops, and insulation from reality are inherent to the way police operate. The only way to rid the world of this oppressive and unfortunate phenomenon is to get rid of policing altogether. ★

**POWER CONCEDES NOTHING
WITHOUT SOME HANDS**

Graffiti has always had a certain exciting flair that has attracted many who would use it to profit. Although often considered a nuisance and "not art" (whatever that means), graffiti has also been seen on advertisements, media, and as the backdrop for things that want to seem hip, urban, and dangerous. But one recent example of the commodification of graffiti has not gone over well for profiteers.

A recent H&M commercial featured graffiti writer REVOK's art in the background. When REVOK wondered why he was in no way compensated when his work was used to fill the pockets of the rich, he was told that because his art was illegal he had no right to it. Additionally, H&M filed a

lawsuit to establish that all illegal graffiti was open to be used commercially without payment or credit. This angered graffiti writers around the country and led to a rapid backlash against the clothing store.

In cities across the country, graffiti writers responded by vandalizing H&M stores. Some went for quick tags, others took the time to fill in a throwie. The most flamboyant graffiti was seen on the H&M stores that were painted using fire extinguishers, leaving behind letters around one story tall. Here in Philly, graffiti writers SPD and REAVE left tags on the H&M in Center City in the classic hand style Philly is known for: wickets. Wickets consists of tall lettering that's close together and often flared out at the top and/or bottom edge, it's sometimes wide at the top and small at the bottom, and looks good accompanied by a smiley face.

All the graffiti that H&M was so eager to use for profit proved to be too much for them. Once they realized they opened a can of worms -- stores being vandalized, internet controversy, calls for a boycott -- they dropped the lawsuit, issued a public apology, and reached out to REVOK to find a solution. Without the highly visible outcry and action against them, it's likely that H&M would have easily ignored the anger of graffiti writers and continued to profit from others' art without consequence. ★

IF AFRIN FALLS... IT WILL HAVE BEEN TOO LATE

by Fight4Afrin

For more than 6 weeks we have had to watch the Turkish attacks on Afrin. Today, this project is standing with its back to the wall. The war is a struggle for existence or not-existence for the revolution in Rojava. Its time to take direct actions.

For more than 6 weeks we have had to watch the Turkish state attack and occupy together with Islamist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaida Afrin, the most western canton of Rojava. In this extermination campaign, the invaders are neither deterred by the deliberate bombardment of civilians nor by the use of chemical weapons. The Islamist mercenaries and fascist Turkish soldiers leave a trail of devastation, plunder, rape and murder, they practice an ethnic cleansing of the territory of Kurds. So far, more than 300 civilians and many militants have given their lives, dozens of villages have been destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people have had to leave their homes.

Despite the determined resistance of Afrin's people and their YPG / YPJ / SDF defense units, the Turkish army manages to gain more ground every day. While the Turkish offensive was stuck in the border area of the canton for the first month, in recent days important small towns such as Raco and Shera have been conquered by the invaders. Their destination is Afrin City, the place where civilians have fled the villages and small towns they have conquered so far.

This is made possible by the massive use of modern NATO technology such as fighter jets, artillery, tanks and drones. The fascist-Islamist war of aggression against Afrin is not only Erdogan's attempt to destroy the Kurdish freedom movement; While Russia opens the door to the Turkish Air Force and the Syrian Assad regime is de facto inactive, NATO actively supports this war with intelligence information, military technology, weapons and ammunition from Western factories. The hypocritical messages from the palaces of power can not hide the fact that this war is nothing but the reckoning of the rulers with the revolution of Rojava. It is a reckoning with the attempt to counter the capitalist system with a self-determined alternative of radical democracy, women's liberation, real gender equality, and social ecology.

As radical left in Europe, we should be aware of the historical significance of these days. The attack on Afrin is an attempt to destroy the most promising revolutionary project of our generation. The Rojava Revolution is not only the only significant emancipatory perspective in the Middle East, but also one of the worldwide last remaining glimmers of hope for another world.

Like no other revolution of the last decades, Rojava has inspired us and shown us how radical and beautiful the struggle for the liberation of a society can be. The heroic resistance of YPG

and YPJ in Kobani and the self-organization of the population under the initiative of self-liberating women cast a spell over thousands of leftists, anarchists, socialists and feminists. Worldwide, this revolution was discussed, admired and given solidarity, hundreds of people made their way to Rojava and participated in the resistance against ISIS and the building of a new society. In spite of all the contradictions, the Rojava movement, with its determination, its attachment to the people and the concrete implementation of our utopias, has become the most important focal point of the global struggle against capitalism, patriarchy and racism.

Today, this project is standing with its back to the wall. The war over Afrin is a struggle for existence or not-existence for the revolution in Rojava. If Afrin falls, Minbij will fall as well. With a victory for the Turkish state west of the Euphrates, American imperialism will also rethink its regional strategy and consider to hand over northern Syria to Turkey-affiliated Islamist militias under the FSA label aka ISIS and Al-Qaida / Al-Nusra. This would not only be the beginning of ethnic cleansing and the bloody end of the Rojava revolution, but also the beginning of a new phase in the development of Turkish fascism as a source of worldwide Islamism – Erdogan's dreams of the new Ottoman Empire with him as Sultan at the head would no longer have any counterpart. The dictatorship inside would be consolidated for decades, the colonial expansion would be extended to the outside. The Middle East would be driven deeper into the chaos of war and annihilation without a force that can develop an emancipatory alternative.

The fact that developments in the Middle East have a direct impact on political and social processes also in Europe and other parts of the world has not only been shown by the attacks of ISIS in recent years. The rise of racism, sexism and antisemitism in European societies, the new militarism and the ever-increasing calls for the authoritarian state and thus the comeback of the radical right, are directly related to this. We must be aware that the conditions under which we, the radical left, are struggling in the centers of power are also shaped by the international balance of power. And the same is true of the political conditions in the metropolises of capitalism, which influence the conditions under which our friends fight in Afrin.

The people of Rojava are still standing, YPG / YPJ / SDF are opposed to these developments. And this resistance has so far only been successful because people have decided to give everything for it. However, they will not be able to defend against the brutal superiority of the attacking Turkish army and their Islamist helpers without international support. But despite weeks of worldwide protests, the states of North America via Europe to Russia hold on to their cruel decision to end this revolution, and seem to have sealed the fate of the people in Rojava. The resistance in Afrin will only succeed if we are ready to give it all, even if it is the most valuable.

We will not continue to watch this injustice passively. We will not leave the people in Rojava and our fighting

comrades alone, because the war against Afrin is just as much a war against us. The Turkish attack on Afrin is NATO's political, economic and military push into the heart of our revolutionary struggles, dreams and hopes. We will carry this war back to where it is approved, supported, legitimized and produced. We will drive up the costs for those who benefit from this war. We will hold to account those who endorse the murder of civilians and legitimize them as a supposed "war on terror". And we will make the deafened European public listen up and remind our societies that we all have a responsibility for what governments are doing on our behalf.

In this sense, we call upon all emancipatory forces worldwide to break the silence and give a voice to the people of Rojava that no one else can ignore. If not us, who else will be able to remind our societies of their responsibilities? The situation in Afrin is an existential threat to all our revolutionary perspectives – when, if not now, is it time to risk everything? If Afrin falls, it will be too late. Only if we give everything, we will be able to win everything.

The past solidarity actions with the resistance in Afrin have been right and good. We greet all the comrades who have been organizing, demonstrating and carrying out direct actions for weeks. These were important moments, but they are not enough. In the current situation, the murderous silence and the support of fascist Turkey by the international community forces us to other means. We must exercise our right of self-defense of our hopes.

Direct actions can not only be a concrete intervention in the war and propaganda machinery of the Turkish state and its helpers, but have much more potential to draw attention to the extraordinary urgency of the situation. Burning Turkish embassies and consulates, sabotaged armaments companies and mass militant actions against the symbols of capitalist and imperialist rule will break the silence and make the atrocities of Turkish fascism no longer ignorable. The system in Europe thrives on us to engage and stun, to pacify conflicts and contradictions – let this false illusion of social peace go up in flames. Let us show the rulers that we will resist the attacks with the people of Rojava and defend by all means the revolution in Rojava, which is also our revolution.

We call on Monday, 12.3.2018 to start with this militant campaign wherever we can hit the rulers: Radical, creative and courageous, involve you and organize local actions as a prelude to a resistance that will show the powerful of this world that Afrin is not alone. Like the people of Rojava, we also say: "Together we will fight, together we will lose, or together we will win".

Afrin will not fall!
Biji Berxwedana Afrin!
Long live the international solidarity!

Radical cells in the heart of the beast ★

AFRIN HAS FALLEN

"The revolution of Rojava is going through her darkest hours. Despite the worldwide and relentless actions of millions and countless acts of militant resistance in solidarity with the struggle of Afrin the rulers of this world decided to slaughter the people in Rojava. Today the fascist Turkish army and their Islamist mercenaries entered the city of Afrin.

"We are not shocked. We are furious. We showed in the last weeks that we are ready to risk everything to save this revolution. Now it is the time to spread the heroic resistance of YPJ/YPG and the people of Afrin in the most radical way all over the world. Now is the time to light up the Newroz fires right in the heart of the beast. In these fires our furious, determination and hope will shine.

"Now, we will take the war against Turkish fascism and its supporters to the streets of the metropolises. We will defend our hopes and attack everyone who is part of this plot against Afrin. Whatever might be necessary, we will stop this war right now!

"Rise up for Afrin and the revolution of Rojava!

"Death to Turkish fascism and its collaborators!

"War against war!"

18th of March 2018

Since the original call for solidarity with Afrin came out (that we reprint on the previous page) Insurrection News has been chronicling many of these solidarity actions with photos. Some of these include:

- Paris, France: Arson attack of cars against person working at Turkish consulate.
- Berlin, Germany: Arson attack against car dealership in solidarity with Afrin.
- Soltau, Germany: Arson attack against military vehicles in solidarity with Afrin.
- Berlin, Germany: Bank attacked in solidarity with Afrin.
- North Rhine, Germany: Arson attack against car dealership connected to Turkish regime.
- Turin, Italy: Arson attack against military contractor.
- Hamburg, Germany: Attack on store connected to Turkish fascists.
- Hamburg, Germany: Attack on bank.

- Hamburg, Germany: Arson attack on Nationalist's car.
- North-Rhine, Germany: Attack on fascist 'grey wovles' club.
- Berlin, Germany: Attack on Turkish propaganda center.
- Melbourne, Australia: Rally at Turkish consulate.
- Turkey: Kurdish youth groups launch offensive in solidarity with Afrin.
- United States: Coordinated protests and banner drops.
- Iraklio, Crete: Anarchists take over German consulate
- Copenhagen, Denmark: Turkish embassy attacked with molotov cocktails

On March 24th, there is a call for global solidarity with Afrin and Rojava, and to demand that Turkey halt its invasion and push for ethnic cleansing. The call itself comes from a coalition of Kurdish, anarchist, and anti-authoritarian groups across the US. Unfortunately for us, the closest Turkish embassies are in DC and NYC, and the fight4afirinoblogs.org list of companies complicit with Turkey in the war don't seem to have much in the immediate vicinity, but that doesn't mean there is not a plethora of worthwhile targets. ★



OPIOID EPIDEMIC

There is an opioid epidemic in Philadelphia. More than 1,200 people fatally overdosed here in 2017, one-third more than in 2016. It is a crisis of capitalism, imperialism, and of civilization.

Doctors have gone on record to say they were over-prescribing opioids for pain management, in part due to empathy for their patients (despite not fully understanding the risks), but also because business-oriented hospitals encouraged the doctors as a method of protecting their economic bottom line. Of course, doctors are largely being excused for their lack of information as the pharmaceutical industry is accused of spreading misinformation and propaganda in order to buoy their sales. Corporations in general, not least of all those in the pharmaceutical industry (along with governing bodies like the Food and Drug Administration), have a well-known history of prioritizing generating income over performing long-term studies as to the effect of a product, after all. And long-term effects for people who have been over-prescribed opioid painkillers often lead to them turning to heroin when they are cut off by their doctor.

The medical industry's origins are rooted in disempowering the general populace, especially women, while attempting to concentrate knowledge among a supposedly elite group – as was chronicled in Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English's "Witches, Midwives, and Nurses." It turned healing into a business, rather than a community resource, and has been used to oppress marginalized communities, using methods including committing women who acted out by diagnosing them as hysterical, forced sterilizations of black communities, and electro-shock treatment of queer, trans, and gay people. The industry further disconnected people from the natural world, including through the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals that are often much stronger than the naturally occurring medicinals we had previously relied upon. This was part of the techno-industrial progress that has created the "civilized" world we know today.

Cities are large concentrations of people that build up an urban center and deplete resources available in the area to the point of necessitating importation – to some, these are the crux of civilization. They were once viewed as epicenters for drug trafficking and use – especially during the crack epidemic – in part because of their infrastructure and population concentrations, but also because of the psychological impact of modernity on the populace. The wide spread "cooking" of methamphetamine in rural areas has caused its own epidemic in rural areas, but heroin has

become noted for its total transcendence of geography and demographics, likely due to the medical crossover and the death culture perpetuated by civilization.

Wars in the Middle East, especially among the plentiful poppy fields of Afghanistan, have also contributed by making cheap heroin available to military personnel and their associated communities. Another anti-civilization writer, Kevin Tucker, has previously pointed out the correlation between heroin overdoses and military base locations on a Center for Disease Control map that broke down deaths county by county. There is much that can be said about the impact of war-induced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder coupled with the lack of worthwhile resources and opportunities available to veterans upon their return, but the bottom line is that those veterans shouldn't have been there in the first place. Even the CIA has been implicated in this drug trade.

Previous practices, as noted in Tucker's essay "Hooked on a Feeling," point to community activity, especially dancing, as bringing euphoria to participants as they pushed their bodies beyond their limits through night-long celebrations. Others note that when substances were used, especially earlier forms of beer that were brewed from herbs, they interfered with the productivity of the people whom capitalists were attempting to coerce into the workforce and may have even contributed to people acting out against hierarchical control. The "German Beer Purity Law" is said to have been a collusion of the church and state against that sentiment and associated pagan rituals; the law restricted beer ingredients to hops and barley (as they act more as a sedative) under the guise of reducing bread prices.

It is no surprise that police, falsely categorized as those that protect and serve the community, have done little to protect or serve those affected by said epidemic. It has often been said that they are protectors of property, and far more so in service of the rich – but logistically, they can often only respond to events after they've begun to occur, and usually arrive after the events have already transpired. Then they arrest people, if they haven't just killed them outright, and submit them to the harm of the criminal justice system – in this way they do nothing to prevent harm.

Internet commentator and satirist New York Year Zero once rightly quipped that librarians save more lives than cops, after an article was published detailing all the work Kensington librarians in Northeast Philadelphia do for opioid-addicted populations – including administering Narcan to folks who've overdosed. Some cops are beginning to realize they

"can't arrest [their] way out of it," as one DEA agent said in a Vice documentary last year, noting his unexpected collaboration with harm-reduction-oriented needle exchange programs.

One such well-intentioned program in Philadelphia, Prevention Point, provides all sorts of additional services as part of a harm-reduction program intending to "reduce the harm associated with drug use and sex work including reducing the spread of HIV infection and other blood-borne diseases."

Philadelphia also recently approved "safe injection sites," noting that "a single site in Philadelphia would save 25 to 75 lives a year and millions of dollars in hospital costs and public funds, while reducing public injection of drugs and other neighborhood problems" like disease transmission. Potentially the first of its kind in the country, there would need to be collaboration with police so that users are not simply arrested outside of the facilities, and fears of a federal backlash persist. District Attorney Larry Krasner and Mayor Jim Kenney have been pushing for this development, while Kenney passed out blue porch lights that make it difficult to see one's veins, so as to prevent people from injecting on other people's porches.

Bob Black once drew an excellent parallel between anarchism and the Hippocratic oath: that the intent of both is to "do no harm." In implementing harm reduction strategies in opioid-affected communities, there is an uneasiness that remains about people entering communities that are not their own, appearing as charity or savior-like approaches. Somewhat alternatively, there have been recent efforts to open up housing opportunities to communities of users which they would maintain themselves, offering empowerment in addition to shelter. Ultimately, though, it is a complicated issue with no easy solutions, as the lesser evils mostly favor the advance of an alienating techno-industrial society and collaboration with cops and politicians that could mimic the medical-induced imprisonment that Alfredo Bonnano warned us would be the result of a successful prison abolition movement:

"We can sum up by saying that the project of power for the future is to abolish the traditional prison and open it up to participation, and at the same time create a new, absolutely closed version: a prison with white coats where the real outlaws will end their days. This is the prison of the future, and those who are talking about abolition will be happy, in that in the future these prisons with white coats might not even be called by such a hateful name, but rather clinics..." ★

MARINER EAST 2 UPDATE

The Mariner East 2 pipeline was supposed to have been in full operation desecrating the earth and water across so-called Pennsylvania by mid-2017, but its construction has been repeatedly delayed. Various state agencies have suspended construction, as the pipeline has already violated its surrounding environment in ways that even the state has to pretend to recognize.

Officially recognized violations so far include contaminating drinking wells and spilling more than 220,000 gallons of drilling mud into various aquifers, streams, and wetlands across Pennsylvania. The state took limited measures to temporarily stop construction in January only after continual pressure from people who had found out that Sunoco had been drilling in areas where the company had no permits to do so.

Construction of the Mariner East 2 resumed in February. In early March, its construction caused sinkholes that destabilized the ground near the already operational Mariner East 1 pipeline and in the vicinity of an Amtrak rail line. The Mariner East 1 pipeline was ordered to be temporarily shut down as a consequence. These sinkholes were only the latest and most dangerous of many that have emerged along the Mariner East 2's route starting in December.

In mid-March, horizontal drilling in Frankstown Township breached an aquifer, spilling 200 gallons of waste per minute and destroying the water in the Susquehanna River watershed.

On a quarterly earnings call with analysts in late February, ETP executives admitted that delays in constructing the Mariner East 2, along with its Rover pipeline, is costing investors three-quarters of a billion dollars. ETP's stock price has declined 25% since March 2017.

The \$2.5 billion, 350-mile long ME2 pipeline will carry natural gas liquids from the Marcellus Shale in Western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio to the Marcus Hook export terminal near Philadelphia. Most of the gas will be shipped from there to make plastics in Scotland.

Construction of pipelines and other resource extraction infrastructure is currently an integral method of accumulating enough capital to maintain the U.S. socioeconomic order. It is also integral to upholding the U.S. as a settler colonial nation-state, which involves ever-new theft and exploitation of land and other resources in conjunction with the genocide and immiseration of the land's original caretakers. The state's resource extraction methods have not gone without significant resistance, which no doubt has also dealt an economic blow to Energy Transfer Partners. ETP's retaliation, via collusion with government and media, has demonstrated the vicious dedication of the state and capital to preserving itself.

Last year, Energy Transfer Partners used intensive state military and police resources, along with surveillance and infiltration coordinated by the firm TigerSwan, to defeat the massive Native-led blockade of its Dakota Access pipeline at Standing Rock. ETP has also hired TigerSwan to "neutralize opposition" to the Mariner East 2 pipeline.

Last fall, an anonymous communique claimed an action sabotaging machinery at a Mariner East 2 construction site in southeastern Pennsylvania. Recent sabotage of freight train tracks claimed in the Philadelphia area likely also inconvenienced the transportation of oil extracted from North Dakota's shale fields. In western Pennsylvania, Camp White Pine continues to maintain a blockade of the pipeline's proposed route through the Gerhart family's property in Huntingdon County.

Each step of the Mariner East 2 pipeline's construction, including cutting down the trees in its path, contributes to rampantly accelerating, potentially irreversible, global climate change and to what many are arguing is the Sixth Great Extinction underway of most life on earth. ★

***"Even in death, America is still built
on the backs of us."***

**-Avdol Muhammed, commenting on the former car wash
and future apartments built atop an African American
cemetery at 4125 Chestnut Street, West Philly**

UNGOVERNABLE BODIES AT OCETI SAKOWIN

"an overwhelmed perspective on why we stayed"

Excerpt from a forthcoming zine

Me: I am anonymous intentionally, but in terms of contextualizing I am a very white passing mixed native person who grew up mostly detached from native community. Another totally lost and rootless one finding roots in strange places.

I gained more than is imaginable at standing rock. I have been attempting to illustrate the experiences to myself like a menu; becoming hypothermic in defense of sacred land, falling in love, being punched by cops, praying out loud, watching tipis burn, living intimately enough to differentiate the farts of 5 different people. Detailing the intimacy involved is like lighting oneself on fire, too intense and a true risk, but a relief my life will never be the same. We, as water protectors, are all the luckiest and most spoiled. We shared what it's like to live a life further from bosses, cops and money than most people growing up in the united states ever have. My fear is that we will chalk it all up to a once in a lifetime experience and return to the mundanity and violence of living "normally" under capitalism. My hopeful intention is that we will pursue the momentum of this lived dream into growing other spaces, wiser and more emboldened. Stated in the simplest way possible my faith was restored by Oceti Sakowin. Instead of chastising myself for being a helpless dreamer, creating mythological worlds I will only ever be broken by trying to pursue, I believe in our ability to make real these myths, to build this challenging magic, because I've seen it accomplished. I have seen that our capacity is beyond begging for crumbs, repeating cycles of "resistance" that have stopped being disruptive to a seasoned state apparatus, or resigning to living without spirit. I could never shake the bitter realist attitude that comes from living in this world, but the logic I was under has been permanently interrupted. As my nihilistic brain broke, my courage and spirit came into this currently growing state of self. Living in the throes of seeing so much more, seeing how ritual is happening around us in meaningful coincidence and how we miss opportunities for ceremonial and material resistance all the fucking time. My vision is different; weirder, clearer and, at the risk of sounding cheesy, freer.

[...]

There is a need to recognize the occupation of Standing Rock as an unnecessary failure. The manpower, abundance of resources, and knowledge base at camp was a perfect storm for a permanent occupation. I believe many of us were operating under the assumption that not only was it possible for Oceti Sakowin to be a permanent, cop free, United States free, autonomous community, but that we were going to make it happen. But there was an issue of how people were

personally motivated, tactically invested and willing to be honest with themselves or others.

It was a commonly used phrase in camp to say "I am willing to die for this." The interesting thing about being willing to die for a project that is framing itself as a pacifist movement is that it is synonymous with allowing oneself to be killed without gain, made into a victim truly to prove an ethical upper hand. Trying to employ this moral upper hand to the cops, private security and the state as was the public image of Standing Rock was a detrimental waste of our time and energy. Who was it for? Had those many impassioned people been serious about the sacrifice of their lives and moved into a defensive position I believe Oceti could be in existence as a living example of a decolonizing pan indigenous seceded territory today. So why did we choose to fail?

The simple answer is totally justified fear of state repression and violence, but in our last months and weeks why were we capable of deciding on whether or not we should even take defensive measures to protect the camp? Because of a firm adherence to a pacified politic many people only aligned themselves with because of loud policing social voices. Ones that would claim the support or consent of elders without their presence or explanation, or would accuse those interested in defensive (not even offensive) measures of not considering every ones safety. A truly laughable accusation when the Oceti Oyate had willingly been occupying a space berated with consistent state violence for extended periods of time with the very drive and intention of making sacrifice in defense for earth and spirit. In the end the pacifist hegemony built at camp criminalized even self defense. Shields, masks, goggles and other protective gear were named as "provoking a violence response." Wow. From my embittered position within radical politics this cycle was not a surprising one. The surprising aspect was the intense sacrifice people were willing to make in order to participate in this struggle; jobs, homes, relationships, freedom and in ways that could often have permanent impact. The question for me remains had the manipulative claws of pacifism not inundated the camp imagination where could it have led? Where would we be now? For better and for worse? If we had challenged the notion of being "reasonable," if we had truly analyzed what can be considered more violent; the contemporary manifestation of the genocide and colonization of indigenous people that is the threat of death or incarceration by the police? or a group of those attempting to defend a small piece of earth and the water of future generations?

[...]

Being referred to or considered largely by fellow campers as a "warrior" was basically the highest form of esteem one

could receive in passing interactions in camp. An element of this I found wonderful was the variety of actions that could merit the title: chopping wood, first response in medical situations, acts of defense and bravery on the front lines, the removal of barb wire fences, the recording of violent interaction, participating in ceremony, facing withdrawals or symptoms of addiction, coming forward to hold rapists accountable etc. [...] Simply put a warrior is someone who will engage in battle by any means necessary in defense of what is sacred. This means an approach to one's enemies in prayer and reverent dedication to earth, while recognizing what those that have violated that reverence deserve.

Engaging in defense is prayerful, if we are operating with the desire to maintain the earth and way of living with her respectfully we are forced to stop the hand of those that work to murder what is sacred. When is a more necessary time for prayer than when confronting and annihilating the threat of the black snake? DAPL? the police? the military? corporate interest? Destruction of the industrial and technological penetration of the earth is necessary in saving and uplifting earth and spirit. If we don't look towards the sky in prayer while forcing ourselves to actions of sometimes violent sacrifice we consent to her very death. These acts are those of a warrior, recognition unnecessary. ★

